

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
March 30, 2009
6:00 P.M.**

MAYOR JEFFREY E. GRAHAM PRESIDING

PRESENT: **COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS (arrived 6:15pm)**
 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER, JR.
 COUNCIL MEMBER PETER L. CLOUGH
 COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH
 MAYOR GRAHAM

ALSO PRESENT: **CITY MANAGER MARY M. CORRIVEAU**
 CITY ATTORNEY ROBERT J. SLYE

Mayor Graham opened the special meeting.

COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP)

Chief Goss addressed the chair explaining the program and the fact that the City would pay 25% over a four-year time frame for the hiring of additional officers. It has to be entry level positions and has to be for additional positions.

Mayor Graham asked if the funds had to be paid back if layoffs occurred in the four years.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that the City would have to unless there was an extreme situation where the City could apply for an exemption.

Council Member Clough remarked that while he would like to say yes, he didn't see where this program is the answer to the present economic situation.

Chief Goss also advised Council of funding through the Bureau of Criminal Administration. He explained that the City's share is \$79,000. The Bureau would like the City to work with Jefferson County on a joint project. Combined funding would bring the total to \$97,267. He explained that some funds could be earmarked toward equipment or programs for the drug task force.

Chief Goss also mentioned that the City P.D. uses Impact and the County uses Mobil Tec. The two programs don't speak to one another for information sharing.

Mayor Graham asked why something would be purchased that doesn't share.

Chief Goss explained that Impact was already in use when he became Chief and it has worked exceptionally well. He explained that he had been hesitant to sign on with Mobil Tec due to the fact that it was a new company and he was trying to protect the interest of the department.

Council Member Smith asked if the City could apply for the grant and then refuse it at the time of the award due to the economic situation at the time.

Chief Goss explained that the funding could be refused. However, there would be a lot of time involved in preparing the grant application.

Mayor Graham asked what Syracuse and Utica were going to do.

Chief Goss responded that he didn't know if they were applying. He commented that Syracuse does receive funding through another federal grant.

Council Member Smith asked what the officers would be used for, if the City did apply for the COPS grant.

Chief Goss explained that they would be used for general patrol. He also mentioned the possibility that one could be used as a second SRO, if the school agreed.

Council Member Butler asked if the new hires would require new vehicles and computers.

Chief Goss explained that new vehicles and computers would be needed. However, there would be additional expenses for gas and overtime.

Mrs. Corriveau advised Council that after the amount of training time required, the City will get 2 ¼ years actually working on the force out of each officer under this grant.

Chief Goss referred to the grant through the Bureau of Criminal Administration stating that there were no strings attached to that grant.

Mrs. Corriveau advised that the BCA grant is due May 18th and has to be before Council at least 30 days in advance. It will come before Council on April 13th.

Council Member Smith remarked about the numerous grants that are available.

Chief Goss responded that there are many grants. However, most always have a catch to them. He referred to things being free, but to maintain them is what costs money.

Council Member Butler asked what staffing levels were being anticipated for this coming fiscal year.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that Council will receive that answer when the budget is presented to them on April 20th.

Council concurred that the City will not apply for the grant under the COPS Hiring Recovery Program.

The following resolution was presented:

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER PETER L. CLOUGH

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves Amendment No. 70 to the Management and Management Confidential Pay Plan, effective March 31, 2009, as follows:

Position	Salary
Fire Chief (Temporary - Milt Sayre)	\$82,000

SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA

RULES WAIVED BY MOTION OF COUNCIL MEMBER CLOUGH, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that this is a temporary appointment and can last for three months. At that time, a waiver from Civil Service would be required if the appointment was to be extended. She explained that a future appointment will be provisional and would require taking the exam in January. She also advised that the present list is not binding as there are only two individuals on it. Mrs. Corriveau advised that a nationwide search will begin tomorrow (March 31st), with applications being returned by May 1st.

Council Member Clough asked about the individual having to reside in the City.

Mrs. Corriveau advised that the individual will strongly be encouraged to do so.

Bernier Carr Draft

Council Member Butler asked about the status of this.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that the person who worked on the project for Bernier Carr has left the firm. A new individual has started and will be in discussions with the City.

Stimulus Package and Other Grants

Council Member Smith asked if the City has applied for other grants, specifically for alternative energy vehicles. He referred to compressed natural gas and the fact that there are grants in the stimulus package for this type of infrastructure. He also mentioned funding availability for methane capture from old land fills.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that while the City hasn't specifically applied, they have had discussions with New York State. They have an application process which the City is reviewing. Mrs. Corriveau advised that Mr. Hayes has instructed Ms. Webster to apply for buses and a fueling station.

Council Member Clough left the meeting.

City Owned House in Flower/Fassett Area

Mayor Graham suggested that this building be auctioned off for a use that is consistent with the present zoning.

Mrs. Corriveau responded that she thought the City was going to take a wholistic approach to the area and the rezoning issue.

Mayor Graham remarked that he thought it would be better to let the market place decide.

Council Member Butler responded that Council had previously taken a position of sending this back to the Planning Board.

Council Member Burns asked how long the City has had title to the property.

Mrs. Corriveau responded that it had been for a number of years.

Mayor Graham asked for a Council decision on auctioning the property.

Council Members Burns and Smith, along with Mayor Graham agreed to the auction.

Council Member Butler remarked that Council should stay consistent with what was agreed to last month.

Mayor Graham advised that a 4/5 vote would be required to sell the property, so the sale could be blocked.

Mrs. Corriveau suggested that she have the property inspected and then give Council a report at the next meeting. This would allow Council to make an informed decision.

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING WAS DULY ADJOURNED AT 6:56 P.M. BY MOTION OF COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BUTLER AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

Donna M. Dutton
City Clerk